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Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02343 222144Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------042536 222147Z /72
O 222100Z JUL 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4590
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2343

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SYG-MCHENRY TELECON

REF: USUN 2330

1. SYG WALDHEIM CALLED AMB. MCHENRY TODAY TO STATE THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED AHTISAARI, UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA, AND ASKED HIM TO RETURN TO NEW YORK ON TUESDAY, JULY 26, AND TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ADVICE AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE SECRETARIAT WITH REGARD TO UN MACHINERY WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILA-BLE FOR A POSSIBLE NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT AHTISAARI WAS TO BE THE SPECIAL CONTACT BUT THAT FARAH AND OTHER PERSONNEL WERE ALSO AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, HE SUGGESTED THAT HIS AUSTRIAN PERSONAL ASSISTANT, FERDINAND
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MAYRHOFER, WOULD BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITTH WALDHEIM DURING HIS ABSENCE AND THAT WE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MAYRHOFER.

2. WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK AS CANDIDLY AS HE WOULD HAVE WISHED IN THE MEETING WITH THE FIVE JULY 21. HIS PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT APPROACH USED ON NAMIBIA WAS SOUND AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET OVER THE REMAINING

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HURDLES. HE KNEW AHTISAARI TO BE POSITIVE ON THE INITIATIVE AND THAT AHTISAARI SAW A CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT. IN WALDHEIM'S OPINION AHTISAARI WAS THE MAN FOR THE JOB, BOTH IN DEVELOPING UN MACHINERY AND IN THE ROLE OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN VIEW OF HIS EXCELLENT CONTACTS WITH THE FRONT-LINE STATES AND HIS GENUINE ACCEPTABILITY TO SWAPO AND OTHER NATIONALIST GROUPS.

3. WALDHEIM STATED THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM SOUTH AFRICA REGARDING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF AHTISAARI AS THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NAMIBIA. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD RAISED AHTISAARI'S NAME WITH SAG FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO NEW YORK. BOTHA'S RESPONSE WAS NOT NEGATIVE. HE UNDERTOOK TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

4. MCHENRY THANKED THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR MAKING UN PERSONNEL AVAILABLE. HE UNDERSTOOD DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT BE PRESENTED IF THE SYG WERE TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR UN MACHINERY ON HIS OWN AND PERHAPS THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY THE SYG MIGHT MEET BOTH OUR OBJECTIVES.
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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